

**KELSO CITY COUNCIL**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2005**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

Chaplain Steve White gave the invocation. Mayor Don Gregory led the flag salute. The Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Don Gregory. Councilmembers in attendance were: Gregory, Slater, Chester, McDaniel, Wheeler, Keolker, Futch and Student Representative Devyn Davis.

**Minutes:**

Upon Motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Approve the minutes of the 2/1/05 Regular Meeting,' motion carried, all voting yes.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mayor Gregory read a Proclamation declaring the week of February 27 to March 5, 2005, to be **"Literacy Week"** in the City of Kelso. Joanne Law, Altrusa President, accepted the Proclamation and invited all to participate in the activities.

Mayor Gregory read a Proclamation declaring February 24, 2005, as the Celebration of the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Field Service** in the City of Kelso. Mrs. Ledgerwood accepted the Proclamation and invited everyone for refreshments on February 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Kelso High School.

**Todd Cooley**, Manager of the Kelso Red Lion, gave a presentation on the **revitalization of the Kelso Visitors Center**. Mr. Cooley indicated the center is outdated and he presented several site drawings which featured a Starbucks cutting edge concept calling the center Kelso "K"offee and Visitors Center. We need to find a way to create revenue. We need to attract people to come to Kelso and keep them here to spend dollars in our community. He reported Starbucks is looking for a good location. Also interested in promoting a new center are the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Forest Service, Lewis & Clark Foundation, Weyerhaeuser, Chamber of Commerce, and the Cowlitz Historical Museum. Mayor Gregory suggested the Lodging Tax Committee needs to be invited to hear the presentation. Further Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward and review the idea further.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Devyn Davis:** 1) Girls basketball won the league championship. Our first district game will be Saturday, February 19, at 8:00 at Mark Morris. Wrestling took 5<sup>th</sup> at regionals and six wrestlers are going to State this weekend. The boys swimming state competition is this weekend as well. Congratulations to all! 2) We are having a penny drive and raising money for Hospice in memory of Heather Pennington, a Kelso High School student who died of cancer last year.

**Bill Kasch**, 2619 Nichols Blvd., Longview, of Community Center, presented a letter to Councilmembers to request **honoring former State Senator and Majority Leader Sid Snyder**, a native of Kelso who is possibly Kelso's most famous son. It was suggested we honor Sid with a bronze plaque, or naming a street or park after him.

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

Mayor Gregory reappointed **Leah Iverson and Bev Ogden** to the **Highlander Festival Commission**, both for four-year terms.

Mayor Gregory reappointed **Jackie Collins** to another five-year term on the **Kelso Housing Authority**.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Liquor License Renewal:** 1) Daily Store, 1012 N. Pacific Avenue; 2) Sunrise Market, 1215 S 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue; 3) Chuck E. Cheese's, 351 Three Rivers Drive

**Liquor License Assumption:** M & A Mini-Mart, 1821 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Auditing of Accounts:** January 2005 - \$331,819.96; February 2005 - \$1,443,482.09

Upon Motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Councilmember Wheeler, 'Approve the Consent Agenda and the Auditing of Accounts in the amount of \$331,819.96 - January 2005 and \$1,443,482.09 - February 2005,' motion carried, all voting yes.

### **MOTION ITEMS:**

**Award Contract for 2005 Overlay Project to Lakeside Industries:** Upon Motion by Councilmember Wheeler and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Award Contract for 2005 Overlay Project to Lakeside Industries, the lowest bidder, for \$81,202.00 including sales tax.' Councilmember Wheeler indicated it is good to use a local bidder. Motion carried, all voting yes.

### **Award Contract for Academy Street Waterline Replacement to Paul Lambson**

**Contracting:** Upon Motion by Councilmember Keolker and seconded by Councilmember Chester, 'Award Contract for Academy Street Waterline Replacement to the lowest bidder, Paul Lambson Contracting, in the amount of \$209,217.29 including sales tax,' motion carried, all voting yes.

### **Ordinance (1<sup>st</sup> Reading) – Amending Ordinance No. 04-3535 Relating to the Parks**

**Advisory Board:** The City Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title only. Upon Motion by Councilmember Slater and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Pass on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 04-3553, CODIFIED AS KMC 2.74, RELATING TO THE PARKS ADVISORY BOARD,' motion carried, all voting yes.

**Award of Construction Contract for Bates Road Sidewalk to Five River's**

**Construction:** Upon Motion by Councilmember Wheeler and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Award Construction Contract for Bates Road Sidewalk to Five River's Construction.' Public Works Director David Sypher discussed the contract. Motion carried, all voting yes.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**Doug Robinson:** 1) We have had some ideas about how to use our new conditioning room for City employees (not their families). Cowlitz 2 Fire District offered to purchase three or four pieces of equipment totaling about \$8,000; therefore, they will be using the conditioning room. 2) Wednesday and Thursday, February 16 & 17, I will attend the AWC Legislative Conference. One of the main topics to be discussed with Representatives will be the SR-432 project concerning amounts of money we have secured for the project and how much is needed. 3) State Legislature has proposed changes to increase the threshold amount that would make a theft a misdemeanor. City Attorney Brachvogel indicated changing the amount from \$250 to \$750 would make our case load increase quite a bit. 4) Federal budget proposals in process would do some harm to the Community Development Block Grant programs. 5) The City properties for sale at 103, 105, and 109 Allen Street are being appraised and we should receive the appraisals in about two weeks. We are looking at ways to divide the property. Most of the interest so far has been in the 105 and 103 Allen Street properties. Another possibility would be to move the library to 109 Allen and sell the library property. 6) Concerning the shopping cart issue, each councilmember has received a card with names and phone numbers of retail establishments. If you see an abandoned cart, you can call the appropriate business and report the location and the cart will be picked up.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Paul Brachvogel:** No Report

**Kent Anderson:** 1) I received verbal confirmation that we will receive a \$10,000 Trade & Economic Development Grant to do some downtown planning. 2) I have forms for those who volunteered to donate dollars to the Wallace After School Program. 3) Councilmember Keolker asked about the list he and Nuisance Abatement Officer Don Harris made of buildings that needed to be cleaned up. Kent reported all the buildings on the list, except one in West Kelso, have been cleaned up or demolished.

**David Sypher:** No Report

**Geraldine Veenstra:** 1) As part of activities associated with Literacy Week, today the library gave away more than fifty free copies of Jane Kirkpatrick's book, A Name of Her Own. The concept is to "Read it forward" - Read it and give it to someone else. There will be a book discussion hosted by the author Monday, February 28, at the Longview Library. We still have a number of these books to give away if you are interested. 2) As part of the week-long Literacy Week events, we will have a special story time at the Kelso Library on March 1.

**Wayne Nelson:** The "Shopping Cart Numbers" cards you received tonight are a result of a number of contacts I made with these stores. It's my intention to have all the Police Officers and the PublicWorks staff who work in and around the City, to have a card.

**Veryl Anderson:** I will grade each of you on speaking into your mikes on our new system tonight. Joe, Todd, and Mark get A's; David gets a B; Don gets an E; Jack is too close; and Alan forgot to turn his on.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Joe Wheeler:** 1) We had an airport meeting; however, we didn't have a quorum. 2) Joe asked Public Works Director David Sypher for an update on leveling the field at the south end of the runway. David reported Mr. Leber will donate his chipper and chip all the trees. When that has been completed, they will grade, add straw, and get the grass growing. 3) Joe asked Community Development Director Kent Anderson about the car removal nuisance abatement issue now that we have a State Patrol Officer who monitors our area. Kent reported cars are being towed, but they have some details to work out.

**Todd McDaniel:** Baseball signups are Saturday, February 19, from 10:00 to 2:00 at Tam O'Shanter Park. Prices are \$50 individuals; \$90 family; and \$35 T-ball. We have scholarships and some equipment available and encourage all to sign up. No one will be turned away.

**David Fletcher:** 1) Want to congratulate Geraldine Veenstra for the informative presentation she gave at our Rotary Meeting. 2) At the Rotary Board Meeting we have been discussing the Rotary Skate Park. We have some design work and drawings to help generate some firm interest in the community.

**Jack Keolker:** No Report

**Alan Slater:** An average of about 15 houses a week are being foreclosed on and reported in the Daily News. We have information from Washington D.C. regarding doing away with block grants. They want to upset our BPA Program. Tax assessments have been sent out and some properties have increased almost 300%. We have some problems that are going to develop unless we can start getting some control and I am concerned.

**Mark Chester:** I agree with Alan. I just received my tax statement.

**Don Gregory:** 1) The President's budget is devastating for cities and for us in the Northwest. BPA is a big issue. Community Block Grants are big programs for this City and we depend on these dollars. It is possible that our power rates in this area could triple in the next three or four years. I don't know how they expect citizens in our country to come up with the money and still fund all the foreign aid we do. 2) We need to do something about the kids in our City parking lot who are on their skateboards. They are darting out in the street and I almost hit one tonight. Perhaps we need to start writing tickets or better yet—build a Skateboard Park! 3) AWC is looking for nominations for several different committees. Let Doug know if you are interested.

Upon Motion by Councilmember Slater and seconded by Councilmember Chester, 'Move to Approve,' motion carried, all voting yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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**MAYOR**

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**CITY CLERK**